(The House of Representatives was called to order at 12:00 o'clock p.m., Speaker Joe Aresimowicz of the 30th District in the Chair.)

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

(Gavel) Will the House please come to order?
Will the members, staff and guests please rise, direct your attention to dais, where Rabbi Leftowitz will lead us in prayer.

RABBI LEFTOWITZ:

Good afternoon.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Good afternoon.

RABBI LEFTOWITZ:

In scripture we are told, God tell us you shall be holy to me. As we embark on this sacred work of governing, let us remember that our origin is in God. And as we do, we cannot help but to live with a
deep and a deeper conviction in the fact that our life and all life is holy. Living in holiness is living unconditionally, which allows us to give ourselves -- of ourselves fully, thereby, receiving fully surpassing all obstacles and emerging to greater visions of holiness and goodness.

As we do, let us remember that each person we serve in holiness is a person in action. Whether it's a cashier or a receptionist, let us remember that they too are fragile, mutable and holy as a newborn, a rose, a sunset or even You.

Dear God, as we serve as vessels through whom You work, let us all be mindful of Your love for all things created. We say, amen.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Amen.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you, Rabbi. Would Representative Lanoue of the 45th District please come to the dais and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance?

Is there any business on the Clerk's desk?

CLERK:
Yes, Mr. Speaker, communications from the Governor, executive and legislative nominations.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Refer to the Committee on Executive and Legislative noms.

CLERK:


SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Okay.

CLERK:

And the last piece is the daily Calendar.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

All right. Thank you very much, Mr. Clerk.

Representative Ritter.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

I move that we waive the reading of the list of bills and the bills be referred to the committees indicated, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Are there any announcements or introductions? Representative Dauphinais of the 44th, madam, you have the floor.
REP. DAUPHINAIS (44TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise for a point of personal privilege, if I may?

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Of course. Please proceed, madam.

REP. DAUPHINAIS (44TH):

Today, I'm proud to bring my family with me. I have my daughter in-law, Gina, and my two granddaughters, Paisley and Minnie.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Okay.

REP. DAUPHINAIS (44TH):

And they're coming here to learn about what happens here in the House.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

That's awesome. Thanks for coming up today.

REP. DAUPHINAIS (44TH):

Thank you.
Sure.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Come on up.

REP. DAUPHINAIS (44TH):

Thank you.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Are there any other announcements or introductions? Representative Kennedy of the 119th, you have the floor.

REP. KENNEDY (119TH):

Sorry.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

It's okay. Representative Lemar of the 96th, sir, you have the floor.

REP. LEMAR (96TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise for purpose of announcement.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Please proceed.

REP. LEMAR (96TH):

Thank you again. Good afternoon everybody. I just want to let you know that upstairs, in old
appropriations room, the Electric Vehicle and Clean Transportation forum is taking place from 12:15 o'clock 'til about 2:00 o'clock, and we know how hungry you must be today, so we've also provided Pepe's pizza for anyone who wants to come on by and check out all the great information in the role that electric vehicles can play in improving our atmosphere. Thank you very much.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, Mr. Chair of the Transportation Committee. Are there any other announcements or introductions? Announcements or introductions? Representative Ritter of the 1st District, sir, you have the floor.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Mr. Speaker, when we have birthdays we do have to announce them. We have the Vice Chairman of the Judiciary Committee celebrating with us during session, Representative Blumenthal. Happy birthday, Matt.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Happy birthday. (Applause) Will the Clerk
please call House Calendar four?

CLERK:

On page two, House Calendar four, House Resolution No. 009 - A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF AMY PORTER OF COVENTRY TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF REHABILITATION SERVICES.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Vargas of the 6th District, sir, you have the floor.

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to place the name of Amy Porter. I move the nomination of Amy Porter for commissioner of Rehabilitation Service.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

The representative has moved the adoption of the resolution.

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

So moved.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you, Representative. The question before the Chamber is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and
adoption of the resolution. Representative Vargas, will you remark?

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

Yes. I'd like to say first of all that this is a four-year, full-time, salaried position. Amy Porter, as commissioner of Rehabilitation Services will be in charge of the department. Her qualifications are excellent. She has a Ph.D. in rehabilitative counseling, a master's degree, a bachelor's degree, all of it in rehabilitative counseling. Her career has spanned over 29 years, focusing on disability-related services and direct service level and administrative level. Commissioner Porter was the Rehabilitative Services Department's first chair when it was created back in 2011.

She's also served on a wide range of committees and boards at the state and national level, focusing on education, aging, and disability services. She's eminently qualified and I'm proud to move her confirmation of her nomination. Thank you.
Thank you very -- thank you very much, Representative. Will you remark further on the nomination before us? Representative Perillo of the 113th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. PERILLO (113TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The representative is absolutely correct. I had the opportunity to speak with Ms. Porter last week at length. Her understanding of the subject matter, her passion about the job she does and about the people her agency services was very, very obvious to me. She's clearly committed and knowledgeable and dedicated, and I would urge adoption.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Will you remark further? Representative Ackert of the 8th District, sir, you have the floor.

REP. ACKERT (8TH):

Thank you, sir, and good to see you.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Good to see you, sir.
REP. ACKERT (8TH):

Ms. Porter -- you know, as a new administration comes in, they have the opportunity to, you know, revamp a department. But when they see those key folks doing the job that they so passionately want to do, that they retain the best, and here's one of those great examples. Ms. Porter served that department well and I look forward to voting yes on this nomination. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Will you remark further? Will you remark further? If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor, signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Those opposed, nay. The ayes have it. The resolution is adopted. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call House Calendar No. 3?

CLERK:

On page 2, House Calendar No. 3, House Joint
Resolution No. 56 - RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF MATTHEW KELLY OF BARKHAMSTED TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CONNECTICUT AIRPORT AUTHORITY.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Representative Vargas of the 6th District, sir, you have the floor.

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise to place a nomination for confirmation, the name of Matthew Kelly, to be a member of the Connecticut Airport Authority Board.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

The question before the Chamber is on acceptance of the Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution. Representative Vargas, will you remark?

REP. VARGAS (6TH):

Yes. Matthew Kelly has agreed to serve on this board. By the way, this board is a nonpaid, volunteer position appointed by our legislative leadership. And I'd just like to note that Mr. Kelly
is a graduate with a bachelor's degree from the Florida Institute of Technology and he has an aviation management Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University certificate in aircraft accident investigation.

Mr. Kelly's career has led him to work for the Connecticut Airport Authority for over 20 years, and prior to that he worked for the AMB Combs, the sister company of American Airlines and operating out of Bradley. And he is currently a member of the Airport Authority Board. So, this is a renomination to that board. I'd just like to note that Mr. Kelly has also been on the local board of finance in his town, Barkhamsted, for over 21 years. So, he's eminently qualified and I move for adoption of the resolution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Will you remark further on the resolution before us? Representative Perillo of the 113th.

REP. PERILLO (113TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do rise in support
of the nominee before us. But I need to say a few things about the individual and the role to which he has been renominated. The gentleman is right in that Mr. Kelly has extensive experience in the aviation field. In many ways that is a help. For me, that is a concern. The gentleman manages Hartford's Brainard Airport and Waterbury-Oxford Airport. He manages them.

He's on the board of directors of the Aviation Administration, which appoints an executive director which oversees his management of Brainerd Airport and Oxford-Waterbury Airport. Now, I support the nomination because it is a renomination and the gentleman has displayed the prudence and the ability to recuse himself when the time was right, where there were issues directly related to the airports he manages and his salary as it relates to that.

But that said, you can't tell me there wasn't one other person in the State of Connecticut who didn't have such a deep conflict of interest as Mr. Kelly. If this were a new nominee, I would not be supporting him today. Because we create these
situations and it puts -- quite frankly, it puts Mr. Kelly in an awkward circumstance, frequently, when you have to recuse and recuse and recuse because you're conflicted.

So, because he has a track record for recusing himself appropriately, I do support his nomination. But I would strongly urge that we, as a Chamber, and the administration and the appointing authorities reconsider appointing such individuals who are so conflicted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER ARESIMOWICZ (30TH):

Thank you very much, sir. Will you remark further on the resolution before us? Representative Simanski of the 62nd District, sir, you have the floor.

REP. SIMANSKI (62ND):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also rise in support of this reappointment. Mr. Kelly's been very active in the Town of Barkhamsted, and as spoken by our chairman, he is eminently qualified for the position, so I would request his reappointment. Thank you.
Thank you very much. Representative Perillo, I see your light on. You have the floor, sir.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the indulgence. I would ask that when the vote be taken, it be taken by roll.

The question before the Chamber is a roll-call vote. All those in favor of a roll-call vote please signify by saying aye.

Aye.

Those opposed nay. The requisite 20 percent’s been met. We'll have a roll-call vote. Will you remark further on the nomination of the resolution before us? If not, staff and guests to the well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be opened. (Ringing)

The House of Representatives is voting by roll.
Members to the Chamber. The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the Chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Have all members voted? Have all members voted? Will the members please check the board to see if their vote is properly cast? If all members have voted, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally. Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

HJ 56,

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DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

The resolution is adopted. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call Calendar No. 1?

CLERK:

On page one, House Calendar, No. 1, House Joint
Resolution No. 51 - RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF THE HONORABLE LISA KELLY MORGAN OF WETHERSFIELD TO BE A JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Representative Stafstrom.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

The question before the Chamber is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution. Representative Stafstrom, you have the floor.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the resolution before us is to reconfirm Judge Morgan for another eight-year term on the Superior Court Bench. Judge Morgan was initially appointed to the bench back in November of 2010, and she currently
serves as the presiding civil judge in the New Britain Courthouse.

She has a distinguished career in the -- at the bar before joining the bench including serving on a number of committees. She's a graduate of Villanova University and the University of Connecticut School of Law. I urge support for her reconfirmation.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Thank you, Representative. I'm glad to see she went to a fine school. Representative Rebimbas of the 70th, you have the floor, sir.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, good afternoon. I rise in support of the nominee before us. Certainly, she is well qualified and currently serves, as the good Chairman had indicated, as presiding judge in the New Britain Courthouse.

She also passed the Judiciary Committee unanimously. And also for her initial appointment back in 2011, she was also unanimously passed. I think she did an excellent job responding to
questions before the committee and she's very well qualified and I rise in her support.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Vail of the 52nd, sir, you have the floor.

REP. VAIL (52ND):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I can, some questions for the proponent of the resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Please proceed, sir.

REP. VAIL (52ND):

My recollection last year, it was told to us that there was a staff shortage in the judicial branch of government by roughly 700 court staff including stenographers, court clerks and court security. Are you familiar if that number has gone down or what that number is currently?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Representative Stafstrom.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you, Mr. Speaker. There was additional funding provided for staff based on the appointment of new judges last year and I would also remind the proponent that this is a reconfirmation of a judge who currently and previously has served on the bench. It's not a new appointment.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Representative Vail.

REP. VAIL (52ND):

I am well aware that it is a reappointment, but my concerns are still the same. So, is that number roughly the same 700 staff shortage from last year?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Representative -- wait a second, Representative. (Gavel) I'd ask the Chamber to keep the noise level down so we can hear the nominations and we can hear the responses from the chairman of the Judiciary Committee to the inquiries. Representative Stafstrom.
REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, through you. I'm not aware of what the current number of vacancies are. Like I said, there was additional staff added last year to accommodate the new appointments. Those include temporary clerks, court monitors, and the like, to be able to staff our courthouses.

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Representative Vail.

REP. VAIL (52ND):

So, last year, this was an issue. There's no indication that that's been resolved this year. It's my recollection that we not only reappointed all the judges from last year, but then nominated 31 new judges, or thereabouts. Is that correct?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Representative Stafstrom.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Through you, Mr. Speaker. That is correct.
DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Representative Vail.

REP. VAIL (52ND):

So, by nominating those 31 judges, we weren't able to hire the staff necessary to -- for court security and stenography and court clerks. Is that correct?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Representative Stafstrom.

REP. STAFSTROM (129TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, through you. I'm reminded that there have been some retirements of judges from that class and also previous judges. But as I previously indicated, there was additional staff and additional funding appropriated by the legislature last year to accommodate those new judges. I would also remind the Chamber that there remain some 31 additional vacancies that are authorized by statute that remain unfilled on the Superior Court Bench.

Through you.
Representative Vail.

Okay. Just a few comments if I may. I have great concerns about the backlog in the court system and court security. And we don't have the people that are on the ground doing that work, but we keep reappointing new judges. I think it's irresponsible. This is nothing against the Honorable Judge Morgan personally, but I just wanted to speak this one time. I'll be voting against all judges until I think that we have an adequate amount of staff to secure and work in the courtroom.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you, Representative. Will you remark further on the resolution before us? If not, will staff and guests please come to the well of the House? Will the members please take your seats? The machine will be opened. (Ringing)

CLERK:
The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the Chamber. The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the Chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Have all members voted? Have all members voted? Members, please check the board to determine if your vote is properly cast. If all members have voted, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally. Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution 51,

Total number Voting 140
Necessary for Adoption 71
Those voting Yea 139
Those voting Nay 1
Those absent and not Voting 9

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

The resolution is adopted. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call -- will the Clerk please call House Calendar No. 2?

CLERK:
On page 1, House Calendar No. 2, favorable report of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, House Joint Resolution 52 – RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF THE HONORABLE M. NAWAZ WAHLA OF GLASTONBURY TO BE A JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Representative Blumenthal, you have the floor, sir.

REP. BLUMENTHAL (147TH):

I move -- thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report --

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Representative Blumenthal, could you just hold it for one second? The Chamber will stand at ease. The Chamber will come back to order.

REP. BLUMENTHAL (147TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):
The question before the Chamber is acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution. Representative Blumenthal, you have the floor.

REP. BLUMENTHAL (147TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in support of the reconfirmation of Judge M. Nawaz Wahla of Glastonbury, who has for the past eight years served on the civil docket of the judicial district of New Haven.

He has earned degrees from Tufts University and the law schools of the University of Houston and University of Texas at Austin. He also has a diploma from The Hague Academy of International Law.

He serves greatly in the community with a variety of entities including the Inns of Court, Read Across America, and a domestic abuse shelter. And by all accounts has served with distinction and eminence in both his private practice and his judicial service.
And I wish to remark further, briefly, only for one moment on one other distinction that Judge Wahla can boast of, which is that he is a member of Immigrant Heritage Hall of Fame. His country of origin is originally Pakistan. At the time of his original confirmation, he was the first American judge of Pakistani origin. He's now been joined by two others. And I submit that he is a powerful symbol today of the promise of our great country that we are a nation of immigrants and that we offer opportunity to all regardless of race, sex, gender and national origin. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Rebimbas of the 70th, ma'am, you have the floor.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if I could take this opportunity just to congratulate my fellow vice-chairman on his new position on the Judiciary Committee. And I also do rise in support of the nominee before us. Certainly, for all of the
good reasons that the good vice-chairman just eloquently highlighted.

This judge was very sincere. I think his story was very moving for many of us. And that's important because we do want to make sure that our judicial branch continues to be diverse so that the people before them feel that they are certainly being heard amongst their peers.

So, it is important that we continue the diversity and certainly I congratulate the nominee before us as being the first Pakistani Muslim Superior Court Judge and hopefully many more to come. So, I do rise in his support.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Thank you, Representative. Will you remark further on the resolution before us? Will you remark further on the resolution before us? If not, will staff and guests please come to the well of the House? Will the members please take your seats? The machine will be opened. (Ringing)

CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll.
Members to the Chamber. The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the Chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Have all members voted? Have all members voted? Will members please check the board to determine if their vote is properly cast? If all members have voted, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally. Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

House Joint Resolution 52,

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DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

The resolution is adopted. (Gavel)

Representative Currey, sir, you have the floor.

REP. CURREY (11TH):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the rules and transmit all items that require further action by the Senate to the Senate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

So ordered. (Gavel) The Chamber will stand at ease.

Representative Ritter, sir, you have the floor. The Chamber will come back to order. Representative Ritter, you have the floor.

REP. RITTER (1ST):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're just waiting for the Senate to send down a couple of judges and nominations. We ask for everyone's patience. It should be down here in the next couple of minutes. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Thank you, sir. The Chamber will stand at ease.

The chamber will come back to order. Representative Currey, sir, you have the floor.
REP. CURREY (11TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move for the suspension of the rules for immediate consideration of Senate Joint Resolution 15 through 18.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Is there objection? Is there objection? Hearing none, so ordered. Will the Clerk please call Calendar -- once again, will the Clerk please call Calendar Nos -- I'm sorry, Senate Joint Resolution 15?

CLERK:

Senate Joint Resolution No. 15 - RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF THE HONORABLE HUNCHU KWAK OF PORTLAND TO BE A JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Representative Horn, ma'am, you have the floor.

REP. HORN (64TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move the acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution in concurrence with the Senate.
DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

The question before the Chamber is acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution. Representative Horn, you may continue.

REP. HORN (64TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am here today to -- in support of the renomination of Judge Hunchu Kwak of Portland. He was first appointed to the Superior Court in 2010 and is now renominated for his second term.

He is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and served in the Army for six years before attending law school at University of Connecticut. He is a member of a number of bar committees including the Connecticut Asian Pacific American Bar Association which rewarded him with the Impact Award.

He is engaged -- has substantial civic engagement from the Nutmeg Big Brothers and Sisters to being a field force member for the U.S. Military Academy, to recommend candidates to Congressman
Larson, to coaching little league and softball. He is a valuable member of the community. He has served with distinction in both private practice and on the bench.

And I believe also that he is the first Korean-American to serve on Connecticut's Superior Court. I urge his renomination.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Rebimbas of the 70th, ma'am, you have the floor.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the nominee before us, certainly, for all of the reasons that's already been stated. Again, this is an individual who does provide to the diversity of our branch, which we want to make sure that we continue to do so. Also, he is a great asset, not only to the judicial branch, but the community at large. So, his vast experience and knowledge, again, is something that we want to make sure that we continue to promote. So, I rise in his support.
DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Thank you, ma'am. Will you remark further? Will you remark further? If not, will staff and guests please come to the well of the House? Will the members take your seats? The machine will be opened. (Ringing)

CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the Chamber. The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the Chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Have all members voted? Have all members voted? Will the members please check the board to determine if your vote is properly cast? If all members have voted, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally. The Clerk will announce the tally.

CLERK:

Senate Joint Resolution 15 in concurrence with the Senate,

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Those absent and not Voting 7

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

The resolution is adopted. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call Senate Joint Resolution 16?

CLERK:

Senate Joint Resolution No. 16 - RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF THE HONORABLE JOHN M. NEWSON OF BROOKLYN TO BE A JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Representative Blumenthal, you have the floor, sir.

REP. BLUMENTHAL (147TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution in concurrence with the Senate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

The question before the Chamber is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution in concurrence with
the Senate. Representative Blumenthal, you have the floor.

REP. BLUMENTHAL (147TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of the nomination, or the renomination, of the Honorable John M. Newson of Brooklyn Connecticut. He has served for the past eight years as a judge of the Superior Court, primarily, recently, on the habeas corpus docket of the Tolland-Somers judicial district.

He has a long history in providing legal services to those accused of crimes in our state. His law degree is from Western New England University School of Law. His undergraduate degree is from the University of Rhode Island. He has been active in the community, particularly in the City of Norwich, and with Brooklyn youth soccer. I urge the this Chamber to reconfirm Judge Newson. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Rebimbas of the 70th, ma'am, you have the floor.
REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the nominee before us. I also want to note that I appreciate his responses during our discussion in a very thorough hearing that we had regarding his reappointment. Also, his dedication and commitment to working the very difficult habeas corpus docket that he works on.

So, I want to thank him for that work and I think there was a lot of positive feedback that he was able to take back as well as from the members of our committee. So, again, I do rise in support of his nomination.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Thank you, Representative. Would you care to remark further? Would you care to remark further on the resolution before us? If not, will staff and guests please come to the well of the House? Will the members take their seats? The machine will be opened.

(Ringing)

CLERK:
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  January 30, 2019

The House of Representatives is voting by roll.

Members to the Chamber. The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the Chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Have all members voted? Have all members voted? Will the members please check the board to determine if their vote is properly cast? If all members have voted, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take a tally. Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:

Senate Joint Resolution 16 in concurrence with the Senate,

Total number Voting 142
Necessary for Adoption 72
Those voting Yea 140
Those voting Nay 2
Those absent and not Voting 7

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

The resolution is adopted. (Gavel) Will the Clerk please call Senate Joint Resolution 17?
CLERK:

Senate Joint Resolution 17 - RESOLUTION

CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF THE HONORABLE THOMAS V. O'KEEFE, JR. OF GUILFORD TO BE A STATE REFEREE.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Representative Palm, you have the floor, ma'am.

REP. PALM (36TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution in concurrence with the Senate.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

The question before the Chamber is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution in concurrence with the Senate. Representative Palm, you have the floor.

REP. PALM (36TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to nominate for reappointment as state referee the Honorable Thomas V. O'Keefe, Jr. of Guildford. This jurist has a
long and distinguished record beginning when he was a prosecutor in New Haven for 14 years.

In 1986, he was nominated by then Governor O'Neill to the Superior Court and he served in Waterbury, New Haven and Meriden. Judge O'Keefe came up at a time of great political upheaval in our nation's history. In 1969, he got a BA in political science from UConn. And I believe this really set the tone for the kind of jurist he would be, which was to understand the role of poverty in crime and to have a very strong social justice vent.

He was admitted to the bar in '72 and he's served with distinction since then. I would like to call my colleagues' attention particularly to his sensitivity in the area of domestic violence. This is a judge who takes very seriously the Tracey Thurman Law, and he has shown consistent sensitivity to domestic violence victims.

And also, his intent was to build rapport with people in the judicial system. He once likened himself to an umpire in a baseball game. And since baseball analogies are also useful, I think that's
important to point out. He consciously asks everyone coming before him what their job is, and no matter what the answer is, he replies, "that's an important and a good job."

So, this is a sensitive person who is tough on crime, but also very eager to use alternatives to incarceration. I would urge my colleagues to join me in voting yes to reappoint this distinguished juror as a state referee so that people caught in the legal system can benefit from his compassion, experience and wisdom. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Rebimbas of the 70th, ma'am, you have the floor.

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the nominee before us. I think the good representative did a very eloquent job in highlighting all of the attributes and benefits, certainly, of having this individual continue to serve as a trial referee.
Again, all of his experience is as asset to the bench, so I rise in support of this nomination.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Thank you, Representative. Will you remark further? Will you remark further on the resolution before us? If not, will staff and guests please come to the well of the House? Will the members take their seats? The machine will be opened.

(Ringing)

CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the Chamber. The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Members to the Chamber.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Has everyone voted? Have all members voted? Will the members please check the board to determine if their vote is properly cast? If all members have voted, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take the tally. Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

CLERK:
Deputy Speaker Ryan (139th):

The resolution is adopted in concurrence with the Senate. (Gavel) Representative Rose, ma'am, you have the floor.

Rep. Rose (118th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the purpose of an introduction?

Deputy Speaker Ryan (139th):

Please proceed.

Rep. Rose (118th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank this great family for coming up to our chambers today, to the Capitol. Our library ran a fundraiser called -- what was it? Party in the Stacks. And I donated a day of shadowing me as well as a tour of the
Capitol. And I'd just like to introduce Jackie Vigilante (phonetic) from Milford, her daughter, Katie, Meheta Vohara (phonetic), Hanna Beauregard (phonetic), and Shaye Pongo (phonetic). Thank you. (Applause)

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Thank you, ma'am. Thank you all for being able to come up today. Thank you for the fine work you've done for your community.

Will the Clerk please call Senate Joint Resolution 18?

CLERK:

Senate Joint Resolution 18 - RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE NOMINATION OF STEPHEN V. PROSTOR OF NEW CANAAN TO BE A MEMBER OF THE CONNECTICUT COMMUTER RAIL COUNCIL.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Representative Vargas, you have the floor, sir. Oh, Representative Phipps. Representative Phipps, I believe you have the floor.

REP. PHIPPS (100TH):
Mr. Speaker, I rise to move the Joint Resolution.

I believe you move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution in concurrence with the Senate.

Yes.

The question before the Chamber is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and adoption of the resolution in concurrence with the Senate. Representative Phipps, you have the floor.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, Stephen Prostor to be a member of the Connecticut Commuter Rail Council. This job is a four-year job. It's a volunteer position. And he was unanimously voted favorably on January 24th. He is highly qualified.
He is a graduate of Miami University, Ohio, with a Bachelor of Science and he has an extensive financial background. He's worked with Citibank for over 15 years, HSBC, and also PNC. He volunteers with the Boy Scouts of America, the New Canaan YMCA, The Knights of Columbus, and [inaudible - 01:38:32] Club.

More importantly, during his hearing, he was also a fierce advocate for consumer rights and the public's rights to be a strong advocate on the commuter.

And through you, the Speaker, I would recommend to the Chamber that we support Mr. Stephen.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Thank you, Representative. Representative Perillo of the 113th, sir, you have the floor.

REP. PERILLO (113TH):

Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much. You know, the gentleman summarized that very, very well. This is a very qualified individual with tremendous experience, a long-time commuter himself,
and he will continue to be an excellent addition. I would urge adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Thank you, sir. Will you remark further? Will you remark further on the resolution before us? If not, will staff and guests please come to the well of the House? Will the members please take their seats? The machine -- okay. I understand it's a voice vote.

All those in favor of this resolution signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Opposed nay. The ayes have it. The resolution is adopted. (Gavel)

Are there any announcements or introductions? Representative Perone of the 137th, sir, you have the floor.

REP. PERONE (137TH):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Hello everybody. I rise as a point of personal privilege
and really just something for everybody's benefit. So, I'll just get right to it. (Clears throat) I'm not sure how this is gonna go. Six week ago, I had a heart attack. I'm doing great now. I went to -- it was a bit of a surprise, but, like I said, I had great doctors, I had great care. But I'm rising to -- because I had no intention of actually telling everybody like this, but I talked to the Speaker and he thought it was a good idea and I agreed.

The deal is this. That there are so many people that took care of me that, you know, are responsible for me being back here now, that they -- I mean, the thought that they dropped everything they were doing and just provided a level of care was just, was humbling. There's no other way to put it.

So, I believe I really need to pay this forward and I just wanted to -- if -- just make sure -- you know, I had all the classic symptoms. I had numbness in the arm, tightness in the chest, feelings in my jaw. This was a kind of a slow thing coming, but I took the symptoms seriously and I went
into the, you know, the hospital and they said, yeah, you know, this -- your artery's 98 percent blocked and had you come an hour later, this would be a very different conversation. It was kind of a close call.

But on the other hand, I've never had so many genuinely intelligent people say I did the smart thing by coming in. (Chuckles) Or tell me I was smart. But the point of all this is is that it's the kind of thing that you really don't want to play with. If you think you have any symptoms, if you have numbness in the arms, if you have a tightness in the chest, if you feel, or anybody in your family, take it seriously.

I went back and forth. I'm, like, you know, should I go to the hospital? They're gonna laugh me out of there. Oh, you're a hypochondriac. Get out of here, you know. But I'm, like, you know, I didn't know what this was. So, I'm doing great. I am going to send all of you a one-pager, you know, know the signs, that kind of thing. You're also
getting a little card you can put in your wallet to
know the signs.

And I just want to make sure that if you or
anybody in your family ever has any reason to feel
that you might need to talk to somebody, then do so.
You may be richly rewarded beyond your dreams. So,
it's great to be back here among family and I would
defer to you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

(Applause)

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Thank you, sir. Thank you, sir, and we're all
certainly glad that you're recovered and that you're
back here with us, and I hope you continue to have a
long, happy, healthy life. Thanks.

Representative Orange of the 48th, ma'am, you
have the floor.

REP. ORANGE (48TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Good afternoon.

REP. ORANGE (48TH):
Thank you. I believe today to be the 42nd anniversary of the beginnings of war in Vietnam. And we don't really hear very much about Vietnam and the Vietnam vets. And so I thought I would bring it to our attention today and give gratitude for those who have served in the Vietnam Conflict. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Thank you, ma'am. (Applause) Thank you, ma'am, for that remembrance and certainly remember our soldiers who were serving then and who are serving now.

Any other announcements? Representative Currey of the 11th, sir.

REP. CURREY (11TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There being no further business on the Clerk's desk, I move that we adjourn, subject to the Call of the Chair.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

The motion is for adjournment, subject to the Call of the Chair. Representative Santiago, thank you for catching me before we ended.
REP. SANTIAGO (130TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to place the Journal notation; Representative Arconti, business in the district, Representative Tercyak, business in the district. Representative Fox is ill, and Representative Johnson, business in the district. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Thank you, ma'am, so noted. Representative Betts of the 78th, sir, you have the floor.

REP. BETTS (78TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the purpose of a Journal notation. I'd like to list the following: Representative Floren missed votes due to family illness. Representative Cummings was in the district doing business. Representative Case is out of state on business. Representative Harding missed some votes due to district business. Representative O'Dea is in court on business and Representative Kokoruda is out due to illness. Thank you very much.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):
Thank you, sir. Representative Reyes of the 75th, sir, you have the floor.

REP. REYES (75TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise for the purpose of an announcement for the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus. There will be a photo right after session down at the Nathan Hale statute. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

Thank you, sir. Are there any other announcements or introductions? Representative Currey.

REP. CURREY (11TH):

(Laughs) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There being now no further business on the Clerk's desk, I move that we adjourn, subject to the Call of the Chair.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN (139TH):

We will now adjourn, subject to the Call of the Chair. (Gavel)

(On motion of Representative Currey of the 11th
District, the House adjourned at 1:47 o'clock p.m., subject to the Call of the Chair.)
I hereby certify that the foregoing 54 pages is a complete and accurate transcription of a digital sound recording of the House Proceedings on Wednesday, January 30, 2019.

I further certify that the digital sound recording was transcribed by the word processing department employees of Alpha Transcription, under my direction.

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